GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1148
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Fiber Connectivity
Pathak Smt. Riti

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of big project regarding fiber connectivity of the Government at panchayat level in the State of Madhya Pradesh and the possible use of this connectivity at primary level in the opinion of the Government;

(b) whether there is any provision of training as part of the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is preparing a skilled manpower pool to use it in a better way; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country, including Madhya Pradesh, through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated on 25.02.2012 under Indian Companies Act 1956. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has to be provided in all the estimated 2.5 lakh GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers. These access providers/service providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV operators, content providers can launch various services in rural areas. Various applications for e-health, e-education, e-governance etc. can be provided.

State-wise status of NOFN, including Madhya Pradesh, as on 31.01.2016, is given in the Statement at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): There is no provision of training as part of the Project.

(d) & (e): Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC), a non profit organisation constituted in January, 2013 has empanelled 157 training partners across the country and trained 1.21 lakh persons so far.